

Message Text

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64

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 /027 W

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R 271509Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6782

AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 0465

ROME FOR RCAA

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EAIR JO LE

SUBJECT: MEA AIRCRAFT CRASH NEAR KUWAIT

1. KEN FENSKE, LOCAL MANAGER OF PAN AMERICAN TECHNICAL ADVISORY MISSION TO ALIA HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY FURNISH HIM INFORMATION REGARDING RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION OF CAUSE OF BOEING 720 CRASH IN DESERT NEAR KUWAIT ON JANUARY FIRST.

2. FENSKE SAID HE HAS HAD REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FROM DIRECTOR OF JORDANIAN CIVIL AVIATION WHO INDICATED THAT ROYAL PALACE HAD ORIGINATED THE REQUEST.

3. REQUEST WAS SIMULATED BY JAN 25 JORDAN TIMES REPORT OF STORY IN KUWAITI DAILY AL SIYASSA CITING A REPORT BY "AMERICAN EXPERTS" THAT A SOPHISTICATED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE HAD BEEN LINKED TO THE AIRCRAFTS CONTROL. EXPLOSION WAS INTENDED TO OCCUR AS PLANE TOOK OFF FROM BEIRUT AIRPORT", GIVING LEBANESE AUTHORITIES A PRETEXT FOR DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY". REPORT ALSO INDICATED AN MEA STATEMENT SAID SUDDEN EXPLOSION MAY HAVE CAUSED CRASH.

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4. FENSEK SAID THAT ALIA HAS THREE BOEING 720'S
AND THAT GOJ AS WELL AS COMPANY IS UNDERSTANDABLY
ANXIOUS TO BENEFIT IN ITS SAFETY PROGRAM FROM ANYTHING
THEY CAN LEARN FROM THIS INVESTIGATION. (FYI ONLY. KING IS ALSO
ACQUIRING 720 FROM JAPAN AIRLINES FOR PERSONAL AIR TRAVEL)
FENSEK SAID HE IS TRYING TO PURSUE HIS INQUIRY THROUGH PAN AM
CHANNELS BUT WOULD APPRECIATE OUR HELP AS WELL.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: IN VIEW OF GOJ AND ROYAL
INTEREST IN THIS MATTER (KING HIMSELF PAYS
CLOSE ATTENTION TO ALIA MATTERS) AND THEIR CONCERN
OVER POSSIBLE SABATAGE CONNECTION, EMBASSY WOULD
APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY AUTHORITATIVE SUMMARY OF THE
INVESTIGATION THAT WE CAN PASS ON TO FENSEK AND
TO GOJ DIRECTLY.
PICKERING

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